



*Maruki
Community
Orchestra*



MEDIA RELEASE

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A Canberra based community orchestra, **Maruki Community Orchestra** (MCO), has been named among 28 finalists selected from the 225 national entries received in the inaugural 'Music in Communities Awards.' Run by the Music Council of Australia's music advocacy program, Music. Play for Life. The Awards are all about recognising and rewarding people and places helping to spread the love and passion of music-making throughout Australia.

Other finalists include the Dandenong Ranges Music Council in regional Victoria, the Sydney Street Choir for homeless people, the Cairns Municipal Band and the Bosnian Women's Choir.

"These inaugural Awards have helped show that Australia's hills, valleys, beaches and cities are truly alive with the sound of music," said Awards organiser, Tina Broad, from Music. Play for Life. "The 28 organisations and groups which have been selected as finalists clearly punch above their weight in terms of the impact they have on the cultural life of their local communities. They are all inspiring examples of the power of music to connect people and to activate a community's creative life."

All the finalists can be viewed at www.musicincommunities.org.au

The short-listed entrants will move on to the next phase of the Awards, the national judging, in early May. The National Panel of judges includes Jonathon Welch, founder of the Choir of Hard Knocks, Dr Richard Letts, executive director of the Music Council of Australia and President of the International Music Council (UNESCO), Dr Rhonda Galbally, founder of 'Our Community' and Mr Ian Harvey, executive officer of the Australian Music Association.

The Music in Communities Awards is run with the generous support of NAMM - the international music products industry association.

(See over for media contact details)

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Maruki Community Orchestra



About the MCO

The MCO is a community-based symphony orchestra devoted to musicians from our Canberra community, who have strong interests in playing classical musical instruments, regardless of their level of skills, age, or experience. The MCO develops those skills and experience enabling successes not otherwise available – in a positive and encouraging environment. The MCO provides a process by which Canberra musicians can develop, achieve and enjoy the disciplines and experience of playing in a full symphony orchestra and in doing so, entertain audiences of all backgrounds and ages inside and outside Canberra. We develop the talents and skills of our musicians in playing in a symphony orchestra, ensembles and as concerto soloists.

The MCO also reaches out to the local community giving them the opportunity to experience classical music; the MCO plays real classical repertoire from composers of all of the periods of classical music, played in the community, by the community and for the community.

The MCO is a non-profit community-based organisation and a registered *Deductible Gift Recipient* under the ATO's DGR Programme.

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About the Music In Communities Awards and Music Play for Life

'Music in Communities Awards' is Australia's new scheme to reward community music making.

The search is on for the program - and people - that have been most successful in building music-making activities in their community. There's a \$20,000 prize pool up for grabs, so the public pat on the back comes accompanied with some big cheques for the winners.

Its organisers, Music Play for Life, provides information, advice and inspiration to Australians to encourage them to begin – and stick with – their music-making journey. The campaign does this across all ages, all genres of music and all levels of player, from beginner to professional. It is an initiative of the Music Council of Australia, in partnership with the Australian Music Association and the Australian Society for Music Education.

Music. Play for Life promotes to all Australians the power of music making to enrich our lives and the lives of our community - whoever we are, wherever we are – and encourages more of us to turn that belief into action. Now and for life.

MPFL MEDIA CONTACT:

For more information on the Awards, contact Tina Broad on 0439 022 257

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